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### ARTH 350.01: Contemporary Art and Art Criticism

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**School of Art**  
**ARTH 350 Contemporary Art and Art Criticism, 3 credits**  
**T 4:10-7:00, Fall Semester 2014, Fine Arts 302**

Professor Valerie Hedquist, 305A Fine Arts Building  
E-mail: [valerie.hedquist@umontana.edu](mailto:valerie.hedquist@umontana.edu)  
Office hours: Wednesday 11:00-12:00 a.m. and by appointment

Course description: Survey of artists, art works, critics and theories from 1980's to the present. Introduction to major art movements and ideas of the Post-Modern era. Special emphasis given to firsthand experiences with art at local venues and direct engagement with contemporary art criticism published in newspapers, journals, magazines, and other media.

Required text: Jean Robertson and Craig McDaniel, *Themes of Contemporary Art, Visual Art after 1980*, Oxford University Press, 2013.

Recommended Resources: Additional books, catalogues, and articles will be available through Course Reserves at Mansfield Library or at the Art Resource Center in the Fine Arts Building. Articles and websites will be available through Moodle Learning Management System.

Learning Objectives:

- Develop improved observation and analysis of contemporary art
- Comprehend various interpretive perspectives and the complexities of categorization
- Develop aesthetic evaluative criteria and apply them to contemporary art
- Become familiar with contemporary artists and art works through first-hand viewing and careful reading of art criticism

Classroom Etiquette: Please arrive on time to class. Prepare to sit down for the duration of class. Silence your phone and pay attention to what is happening in the classroom. If you are using a laptop computer, focus on classroom activities, especially if other students can see your screen. Remember to engage with others in a respectful manner. Check out the College Classroom Etiquette document at Moodle and this link: <http://dianegottzman.com/2012/01/college-classroom-etiquette-university-etiquette-for-2012/>

Requirements for Course: You are expected to attend class and participate in discussion. All assigned course work must be completed in order to earn credit for the class. Students are expected to keep copies of all assigned work. Students will utilize Moodle at <http://umonline.umn.edu/> for course syllabus, other course materials, announcements, and grades. Grades will be calculated as follows:

Two Thematic Essays, with required revisions, 100 points each/200 points total  
Faculty Exhibition Assignment, 100 points  
Final Examinations: 100 points each

Grading: 400-360 = A; 359-320 = B; 319-280 = C; 279-240 = D; 239 or less = F

Two (2) excused absences, each additional absence will result in loss of 50 points.

Students with disabilities or special needs should see the instructor.

**Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code:** All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at [www.umn.edu/SA/VP/SA/Index.cfm/page/1321](http://www.umn.edu/SA/VP/SA/Index.cfm/page/1321).

**Week 1, 26 August**

Introduction  
In-class reading/discussion Jeff Koons  
Model for weekly classroom discussion

**Week 2, 2 September**

Art World Expands, Chapter One

**Week 3, 9 September**

Gallery of Visual Arts, Faculty Exhibition Assignment

**Week 4 16 September**

16 September, Faculty Lecture, Rafael Chacón 5:10 SS356

**Week 5, 23 September**

Identity, Chapter Two

**Week 6, 30 September**

Body, Chapter Three

**Week 7, 7 October**

Time, Chapter Four  
Thematic Essay One Due Date

**Week 8, 14 October**

Memory, Chapter Five

**Week 9, 21 October**

Place, Chapter Six

**Week 10, 28 October**

Meet at MAM

**Week 11, 4 November**

Election Day No Classes-Vote!

**Week 12, 11 November**

Veterans Day No Classes

**Week 13, 18 November**

Language, Chapter Seven  
Thematic Essay Two Due Date

**Week 14, 25 November**

Science, Chapter Eight

**Thanksgiving Break 26-30 November**

**Week 15, 2 December**

Spirituality, Chapter Nine